

SPRIT OF UNREST IS PREVAILING LEAD BELT

Feeling General That Material Increase in Wage Scale Must Be Made Soon to Prevent Walk-Out in District

A Times reporter visited the Lead Belt Tuesday and made general inquiries as to the real state of feeling in regard to any contemplated labor troubles among the miners of that region. This trip was made to try and get the real status of the matter, in regard to which a number of unidentified rumors have been floating about. It was found that a number of machine men in the Federal had walked out on Saturday. Their trouble was with the contract system, under which they are working. Their objection was that the contractor, under the system in vogue, was permitted to keep practically all of the profits from their work. Their contention is that they should be permitted to at least share in the profits, in view of the fact that they do practically all of the work, while the contractor, very often, seldom appears on the job. This matter was in some manner patched up, temporarily at least, and the men, to the number of about seventy-five, so we were informed, went back to work Monday.

While in Flat River we heard a rumor to the effect that by Saturday night of this week there would probably be a general walkout from all the mines. But diligent inquiry failed to verify such rumor, nor were any indications of such a movement visible thereabouts. A petition was in circulation, however, which was being numerously signed, not only by miners, but by business men generally, asking for a very material increase in the wage scale of all miners. We also found that the feeling was quite general in the business districts against the mine operators, the general expression being that the miners are now underpaid, considering the soaring prices of all commodities.

While in ordinary times the wages now being paid would appear to be good—the shovelers, the lowest paid labor in the mines, being about \$3.85 for an eight-hour day—the facts are that it requires practically every cent of such amount to keep a fair sized family—and economically spent—a thing of which the average miner's family knows little. While to the superficial observer, things appear to be unusually brisk in the Lead Belt, talks with different merchants there discloses the fact that very little money is being spent there, by the great mining population, for other than the bare necessities.

But the strongest argument we heard in favor of a material increase in the miners' wage scale, was that if the mining companies could not now afford to pay enough to keep the miners and their families comfortably and well, with a chance to lay a little by, especially among the more thrifty, when could they expect such a fair wage scale? If it could not

be paid now, with lead marketing at 11c and 12c per pound, would it be possible for conditions to exist that would permit them a little profit on their work? Such contention certainly seems reasonable and just. There is no question about the enormous profits that are being cleaned up by the mining corporations. The only question is as to the extent of their annual net profits. Rumor has it all the way from \$25,000,000 to \$50,000,000 during the past year.

Now, The Times has no desire to criticize these great mining corporations. Had it not been for the founders of these companies, who risked their money in the development of that great mineral field, these mining properties could not possibly be in the splendid state of development that they are at this time. But, while these corporations have benefited that community by risking their money in the long ago, that field has also proven worthy of the confidence they displayed, and has already returned to them a thousand-fold on their investment. We would therefore suggest that, in our opinion, it would be eminently fair and just, not only to the miners, through whose efforts the enormous present profits are being obtained, but to operators as well, that they establish the same sliding scale of prices that are in vogue in most other mining fields. In this way the wage scale is governed by the market price of the mineral that is produced. This plan is satisfactory elsewhere, and The Times believes it would prove to be entirely satisfactory in the Lead Belt of St. Francois county.

If some such plan is not instituted soon it is the general fear, as we found it, throughout that section, that there will be serious trouble there soon. While the members of these great corporations are eating double porterhouse steaks in New York, why not permit the men who are bringing them in their enormous profits an occasional soup-bone, at least? That these corporations are desirous of keeping down disaffection and discord there is attested by the fact that another increase of ten per cent was allowed on the original wage scale of \$2.40, which was added on the last pay day, Wednesday of this week. But what is a 25 cent raise in these days of bloated prices? It is not enough, so those most vitally interested believe. It is for the good of the operators, as well as for the good of the miners, that The Times presents its findings in this important matter. The mine owners should be big enough to extend their vision to include the interests of the miners in their calculations. They must know that the "cheapest" way is not always the best way to conduct great business interests.

Crop Prospects Never Better

Several light rains have visited this section of country during the past week, invariably falling at night, when they would do the most good. The finest of these showers fell Wednesday night, and while it might have been slightly more beneficial had it been more abundant, it was sufficient to add fresh impetus to crops and vegetation, and have added much to the prospects for a really bumper crop in this community, where certainly crops could hardly look finer.

Wheat, corn, oats, hay, potatoes and all garden truck could hardly look better, and there is apparently nothing in the way at this time for a really bumper crop. The manner in which wheat has come forth within the past few weeks seems little short of marvelous. At that time many farmers were complaining that their wheat was no good—would not produce the quantity of the seed. Now these farmers are estimating their wheat yield at 20 to 30 bushels to the acre. Certainly wheat could not look better, with great heads bending over with the weight of the maturing grain. And all other crops are practically on a par with wheat, though wheat is now almost ready for the harvest, and there is no adverse conditions that could now possibly overtake it to seriously impair an enormous yield.

SOME "SPUDS"

Uncle Frank Coffman has, as far as we know, the blue ribbon on the raising of Irish "spuds". This spring he planted a peck of Early Triumph potatoes. The peck was obtained at a cost of \$1.00. Several days ago he dug eight bushels of potatoes, grown from this peck, and sold them at \$4.00 per bushel. This brought him \$32 on the original investment of \$1.00. It was "some" business.

Doesn't Pay to Steal Junk

Homer Wines and Sam Crawley, aged 14 and 18 years, respectively, are now fully convinced that it doesn't pay to steal junk.

One day week before last they decided that one of the junk dealers in Fredericktown had too much junk on hand and accordingly they relieved him of brass, copper and other junk to the value of \$8 worth and disposed of it to another junk dealer there. The man from whom the junk was taken seems to have missed it and upon inquiring among other dealers soon located the missing goods. The boys had been paid with a check and by this means the miscreants were located.

Wednesday the Sheriff of Madison county came here and took Wines and Crawley back with him to Fredericktown to face the charge of petit larceny.

This is not the only misdeed by which Wines is confronted, as it is reported that he had stolen a bicycle, on which he was paying by the installment plan, and sold it to another party along with a pump for which he had not bargained, without furnishing payment.

Meat House Looted

Some gluttonous thief, with no regard for the laws of God or man, but with malicious pretence, on Wednesday night burglarized the smoke house of J. C. Alexander at Spring Valley, the extreme west limit of Farmington, and carried off about 100 pounds of bacon. If that thief can be apprehended he ought to be chained up in a close room for a week or more and fed on a scant ration of corn pone and water, with a pan of sweet-smelling frying bacon just out of reach torturing his alfalfa nerves.

Tax Payers, Take Warning!

Suit will be filed on all taxes unpaid fifteen (15) days after you receive statement for same. Please attend to your taxes and save costs and trouble.

Respectfully,
JAMES J. CROKE, Collector.

County Sunday School Convention

The St. Francois County Sunday School Association held its eighth annual convention on June 14th and 15th in the Presbyterian Church at Desloge. It was the largest and most enthusiastic convention yet held by this association. The wide-awake, efficient president, C. B. Denman, was there early to greet the first delegates, who began to arrive at an early hour, and when the first day closed 178 delegates had registered. At the close of the convention the number reached 242 exclusive of the Desloge attendance. Thirty out of a total of 46 schools were represented.

From the opening session the program moved with snap and vim, and the various addresses awakened lively discussions, showing a thoroughly aroused interest in the different phases of Sunday School work.

Mr. Bowmar's address on "The Records of the School" caused every pastor and superintendent to express the wish that his secretary were there, and "The Work of the Superintendent" was so efficiently covered and the ideal so high that each superintendent in the county should feel how great is his privilege.

"One Aim of the Sunday School," by Mr. Veith, and "The Efficient Sunday School," by Mr. Bowmar were proof of the enlarged vision that they bring us.

The following towns and Sunday Schools were represented by the number of delegates set forth to each:

Farmington—Presbyterian, 27; Baptist, 12; M. E. South, 6; M. E., 29; Christian, 6.
Bonne Terre—Congregational, 8; M. E. South, 16; Baptist, 14.
Leadwood—M. E. South, 18.
Flat River—M. E. South, 9; Baptist, 5; Presbyterian, 11; Christian, 20.
Elvins—Baptist, 6; Christian, 1; M. E. South, 5.
Bismarck—M. E. South, 9; Baptist, 2.
Esther—M. E. South, 6.
Doe Run—Missionary Baptist, 3; Free Baptist, 6; Methodist Episcopal, 1.

Franklin, M. E. South, 2.
Pleasant Hope—Union, 1.
Hopewell—Union, 1.
Primrose—Baptist, 1.
Brightstone—Presbyterian, 1.
Knob Lick—Union, 1.
Cedar Falls—M. E. South, 1.
Goodwater, 1.

The St. Francois County Sunday School Association is growing, and it is hoped may, as its purpose is to, reach the highest goal by enlisting the full and earnest co-operation of every school in the county.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, C. B. Denman of Farmington; Vice President, A. N. McFarland of Desloge; Secretary and Treasurer, Mrs. W. C. Rice of Elvins.

Prospects Brighten

Word received from Albert Wulfert the first of the week, from the Miami mineral field, where he is looking after the interests of the Farmington Mining Co., as its superintendent and general manager, states that a new drill hole which is being put down near the center of the 47 acre tract owned by this company, had struck a rich vein of lead and jack at a depth of 163 feet, and was still in the same vein at a depth of 189 feet, showing an ore depth at that time of 26 feet.

This is the thirteenth hole that has been put down by this company, on their 47-acre tract, and rich ore bodies have been developed in twelve of them, while "shines" were abundant even in the remaining one. They are sinking a shaft also, which is now down about 90 feet, while the ore body begins at a depth of about 150 feet. Their "soundings", as well as the lay of their holdings, in regard to other biggest producers, indicate that the Farmington Mining Co. have one of the richest claims in that entire mineral field.

Superintendent Wulfert, who is also secretary and treasurer of the company, writes that the mill is now on the grounds, that work of putting it up will begin at once, and that he expects to have it ready to run within ninety days. Mr. Wulfert has had considerable experience in the work in which he is now engaged, and there is absolute confidence among all stockholders that he will secure the best possible results from that splendid property.

At a meeting of the stockholders, which was held in this city last week, the following officers of the Farmington Mining Co. were elected:

President—W. R. Lang.
Vice President—Russell Doss.
Secretary and Treasurer—Albert Wulfert.
Board of Directors—W. R. Lang, J. W. McCarthy, T. H. Stam, Albert Wulfert, George Trauernicht and Russell Doss.

New and Renewal

The following new and renewal subscriptions have been received at The Times office the past week:

New—Mrs. Esther Bloom of Route 2, Farmington; L. E. Aubuchon of French Village; W. P. Billington of Noxall, Mo.; M. M. Thurston of Desloge; Carl Luptey of Elvins.
Renewals—Maj. Phil E. Pears of Houston, Texas; Mrs. M. L. Sebastian and Mrs. Alma Rider of Farmington.

BOND ISSUE THE ONE PROPER SOLUTION

County Court Finally Decides to Enter Upon Permanent Good Road Work and Orders Necessary Equipment

The County Court Judges on Tuesday afternoon held a called meeting for the purpose of conferring with good road experts, as well as a number of representative citizens, in regard to making purchases of some expensive machinery, which they considered necessary if the work of permanent good roads was to be really begun in St. Francois county. Besides a fair representation of citizens, there was also present E. E. McKee, President and General Manager of the Pleasant Valley Development Co., at Iron Mountain, which company owns 16,000 acres in that vicinity, a large part of which land is in this county. There was also present Mr. Conway, who is manager of the Garford Motor Truck Co., in St. Louis, and who is also abundantly informed in the detail work of good roads building.

Presiding Judge Garrett called the meeting to order and immediately called upon Mr. McKee to state what he knew of good roads work, as well as what he had to offer. To such invitation Mr. McKee promptly and most interestingly responded. His talk developed the fact that he knew a great deal about good roads work. In fact he was for many years a contractor for good roads work. But he is now out of that work, and at present is developing and improving the property of the Pleasant Valley Development Co., of which he is practically the whole thing, owning all but two shares in that organization.

As renewed mining operations are soon to begin at Iron Mountain, it is essential that the huge dump of chat that has been there since mining operations were abandoned there years ago, it is imperative that the chat dump be removed. As several parties had been trying to buy this dump of iron chat, his business at the meeting was to offer to St. Francois county three-fourths of that dump for 25 cents a square. He was determined to hold one-fourth of the chat dump for road improvement on his own property. He stated that he had already been offered 50 cents a square for that chat, but he felt that if it was used on the roads of this county it would be of much greater value to him, in improving his large land holdings.

He said this chat material was the finest road dressing he had ever found in all his road experience. His answer to any who might doubt his assertion was for them to come to Iron Mountain and see the roads there, which are dressed with this material, and which have had hardly any repairs on them in the last twenty or twenty-five years. He said that if roads, with a durable foundation, were finished with this chat, they would last practically forever, with but little care, as that material packed until it is practically hard as iron itself. While he did not propose to beg the county to buy, he would be very glad if it would decide to take the chat dump, and he would be willing to sign a contract to furnish this county with all the chat that may hereafter come from the renewed workings of the iron mines.

A number of citizens expressed their views on the very exceptional quality of this iron chat for road surfacing; that it required no oil to cause it to pack; that it gave off absolutely no dust; that the greater the amount of travel over it the smoother and better the surface became. The greatest proposition in connection with its use on the roads in this county was its transportation. That the Court had already made some investigation into the matter was here made manifest, by the fact that a machine man was on hand to solve the transportation problem. He was Mr. Conway, manager of the Garford Motor Truck Co., of St. Louis. According to his figures, the road builder made by his company, furnished the solution to the transportation problem, and at the same time spread the chat over the entire roadway. By keeping this great engine moving throughout two 10-hour shifts it would haul this chat from Iron Mountain and spread it over the roads in this county in quantities of not less than eighty tons a day.

The last speaker was Benj. H.

Marbury, who had just come into the meeting and knew absolutely nothing of what had previously been said or done. On being called on to say something, however, he promptly responded, and his natural aptitude for saying the right thing at the right time, as well as his great enthusiasm for road improvement, was his only guide. But while his speech was most forceful, it was just what was needed to crystallize the thoughts of all those present—along the lines, that most present had been thinking, but were unable to express themselves. He said that all previous courts had "shunted" the responsibility of inaugurating a plan for permanent good roads work, and that it was now up to the present court, if they were to do their full duty in the matter to the people who elected them, to take action in this most important matter at once. He urged that this road builder should be bought—he would buy two if he were doing it. The idea that a county as rich as St. Francois county is—with at least \$200,000,000 of actual wealth—was not able to thoroughly equip herself for the best possible road work, was merest humbug.

His speech was just what was needed in order to start the movement with the proper zest and enthusiasm, and the County Judges decided to close the deal for the Iron Mountain chat dump, which has an estimated amount of 5,000 yards of that splendid road surfacing material. They also purchased of the Garford Motor Truck Co., of St. Louis, a road builder, at a cost of \$6,100, while from the Federal Truck Co., of St. Louis, they purchased two trailers, at a cost of about \$1,500 each. This equipment is to be shipped at once, and when it arrives the work of permanent good roads for St. Francois county will be pressed forward. There is no reasonable question of a doubt but that the present County Judges will be heartily endorsed and commended for their action in this most important matter, if not now, then soon as the whole public can be brought into immediate contact with the unspeakable advantages that truly modern roads afford them.

But there is one feature about this transaction that will flare up to blind the Doubting Thomases, and that is that this good roads equipment will overdraw considerably on the road funds of the county, which were already practically consumed for the present year without hardly any noticeable improvement being made in the roads. But it is a fact, nevertheless, that next year's road money must be drawn on to pay for this year's road supplies and equipment. Now, don't you think it really is a shame—if not a positive crime—that our County Court must be tied down in such a manner, for want of sufficient road money, to thus have to halt and hesitate, when the good of the public highways is concerned? The very thought that one of the richest counties in the whole State of Missouri—whose actual property value will exceed \$200,000,000—seems contemptible.

This is the time, of all times, it appears to The Times, when St. Francois county should vote at least \$500,000 for improved roads. \$1,000,000 would be better. But with \$500,000 all the public roads in the county could be put in condition that they could be traveled in comfort, at any and all seasons of the year. And what would such a splendid sum of money, solely for the purpose of road improvement, cost the average taxpayer of the county? Practically—and we believe absolutely—not one cent more than he is now paying in taxes. The only interests it could materially effect would be the big mining companies, and the only way in which it would be more expensive to them would be providing the assessed value of their plants was raised somewhat over their present assessed value, which is now generally recognized as being entirely too low. Give us a chance to vote on a bond issue for permanent good roads—for either \$500,000 or \$1,000,000, as the people may indicate. The Times believes the people are now ready for such a bond issue.

\$100,000.00 for the Red Cross

This is Red Cross Week, so designated by proclamation of President Wilson, in which it is proposed to raise one hundred million dollars by subscription for Red Cross work. The churches in Farmington last Sunday called attention to this matter and also to the raising of a fund for the Y. M. C. A. in its work in our military camps. Cards to be signed and returned next Sunday with the amount of individual subscriptions were distributed to the congregations. The Christian Church, we believe, was the only one to take up a direct subscription, which amounted to \$24.91. This money, we understand, is to be divided equally between the Red Cross and the Y. M. C. A. At the beginning and close of the services the congregation standing repeated in concert the national pledge: "I pledge allegiance to my flag and to the Republic for which it stands—one nation indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

President Wilson sent out the following message to the Mayors of the larger cities:

"The American people by their overwhelming subscription to the Liberty Loan have given a new encouragement to the high principles for which America entered the war. During the week now beginning which I have designated as Red Cross Week, they will have a unique privilege of manifesting America's usefulness, as well as the real spirit of sacrifice that animates our people. May I urge that your city do its part in raising the \$100,000,000 Red Cross war fund, measuring the generosity of its gifts by the urgency of the need."

The work of raising the \$100,000,000 for the Red Cross has been taken up by the people with loyal enthusiasm, and there is little doubt that before the close of the week, this sum, like the Liberty Bonds, will be over subscribed. St. Louis purposes raising \$1,500,000 of this amount, and by Wednesday the subscriptions flowed in so generously that it is proposed to raise her quota to \$2,000,000. \$426,484 was given by the business men of that city in a single day.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

Last Thursday night, June 14, at the Central High School in St. Louis, 70 young men and women graduated and received diplomas for their four years course. The occasion was made more interesting by the presence on the stage of some of the graduates of '67, fifty years ago. Of this class of 32, which at that time was the largest class ever graduated from the High School, 10 are dead and the remaining 22 were located and invited to be present. On this evening, after several orations and songs, the class of '67 who had reserved seats in the audience were invited to come up on the platform. There were seven who responded in person, and one who was in San Antonio, Texas, was represented by her granddaughter. Dr. James A. Campbell, who was valedictorian of the class of '67, responded for the class on this happy occasion. Thos. Caldwell, a business man and Daniel Goldsmith, a lawyer, were the other "boy" members present. Mrs. Jemima Forsyth Holton, Mrs. Lizzie Harenkamp Delafield, Mrs. Hattie Schmidt Weiderholt and Mrs. Susie McKibben Fisher were the happy recipients of golden anniversary certificates, and the audience appreciating the unusual occasion heartily applauded as each certificate was bestowed by Mr. Chester B. Curtis, the Principal. It was an event of a life time.

Prosecuting Attorney Hicks of St. Genevieve spent the first of the week here visiting Wm. Chinn and family.

Road Macadam Surfacing

SEALED BIDS ASKED

Until 10:30 o'clock a. m. July 12, 1917, by Albert Walfert, County Clerk; for crushed rock dressing for approximately one mile of the Farmington and Hillsboro road; also for 2280 lineal feet on the Burks road. Cut-off.

Bidders blanks and instructions to be had at office of Highway Engineer.

THOS. HOLMAN,
County Highway Engineer.

Frank Highley, who has been very sick for several months, is able to be down town this week. He has had a bad time and his many friends are glad to see him again.

Miniature Strike

Six railway men on the Mine La Motte road, a short line of railroad that connects the mines with the main line or road, struck the latter part of the week, all six walking out in a body. The cause of their disaffection was because that line of road refused to recognize trainmen's organizations.

Supt. Thompson, who has charge of that line, promptly threw himself into the breach, mounted the engine, and at last reports was at the throttle. While it seems hardly likely that he will be able to fill the places formerly occupied by the six striking employees, alone and unaided, he is evidently an all-round general utility man, and will probably keep things going until relief appears.